

THE
BURMA NEWS



AUGUST, 1937

FROM THE AMERICAN BAPTIST MISSIONS IN BURMA

NORDDEUTSCHER LLOYD, BREMEN

Colombo to the U.S.A. *via* Europe in 3 Weeks

For Speed and Comfort Travel N.D L.

Special Through-Rates *via* Europe for Missionaries

For further particulars apply to:—

HANSEATIC TRADING CO., LTD.

Agents:

Norddeutscher Lloyd, Bremen

De Mel Building, Chatham Street

COLOMBO

Telegrams:—“NORDLLOYD”

THE BURMA NEWS

H. W. SMITH, *Editor*.

Published on the 5th of each month at the American Baptist Mission Press, Rangoon, Burma.

Subscription Rates: Single Copy with postage, Rs. 2/6. \$0.75;

Subscriptions in the U. S. may be sent to Geo. B. Huntington, Esq., 152 Madison Ave., New York. Articles intended for THE NEWS should reach the Editor not later than the first day of the month.

Vol. L

Rangoon, Burma, August, 1937

No. 8

Daily Vacation Bible Schools

As so very few of you heard the report read at the Annual Meeting of the B. S. S. U., and most of you are interested in the Daily Vacation Bible School work, I thought you would like to see a record of work done this past year. This covers all of the schools, of which we know, held between August, 1936, and July, 1937.

	Schools	Workers	Pupils
Burman	55	249	2573
Karen	35	47	831
Kachin	4	8	165
Mon	3	11	110
Taungthu	2	9	89
Lisu	1	5	30
Indian	1	10	64
Totals	101	339	3862

This was the first year the Christian Indian Community had a school at Union Hall, initiated by Dr. and Mrs. Wyatt. This will be multiplied several times next hot season in Rangoon in various centres.

The Burman City Mission Worker, Ko Ko Gyi, conducted a successful school at Ahlone in a strong Buddhist centre winning the goodwill and friendship of parents and starting enquiry into the Christian Way.

A good report came from Sumprabum. Sara Robin wrote, "Dear

Mama, with your long-distance push we were able to carry on a good vacation Bible School with classes for children and adults. All races from Sumprabum flocked to it and we hear the songs and choruses taught them now sung everywhere."

In some of the Karen fields Vacation Bible Schools are carried on in Christian villages where children's work is only one phase of the whole. They were not sure that they came under this Daily Vacation Bible School classification, but we are very glad to hear of these efforts and to mention them in this report. The more these local Bible Assemblies and classes develop, the stronger will be the Christian church in that place.

A Daily Vacation Bible School was arranged for and carried on in the Leper Home in Moulmein and the joy it brought to these disinherited children was well expressed in the words of the one who reported it, "Now we know that God loves us just the same as He does other children. We were taught the same kind of songs and stories as other children learn in Daily Vacation Bible School. We had heard of such schools before, but never dreamt that we could ever be in one ourselves. Now

we sing the choruses we learned, as we work and play. The teachers who came to teach us were so loveable, patient, and kind. Please come again next year."

About one year ago an edition of 100 of the new handbook was printed. It comes in several bindings and prices.

Press board at Rs. 1-4

Cloth at Rs. 1-8

Leather interleaved at Rs. 5

Out of this number 432 were sold up to the time of B. C. C. meetings. It is in Burmese only thus far. There are so many good books on this subject in English that it seems hardly advisable to publish an English edition for the few who cannot use the Burmese. The Standard Publishing House, Cincinnati, Ohio, the Southern Baptist S. S. Publications, Nashville, Tenn., as well as the Judson Press, Phila., are a few places from which excellent material on Daily Vacation Bible School can be obtained.

Through personal friends in America some financial help has been provided so that the evangelistic appropriations given heretofore has been relinquished for other purposes. If this assistance continues and that obtained in Burma is likewise kept up, we can manage to carry on, and with God's help enlarge and increase our present range of work.

Ma Hannah is out of hospital and is recuperating her strength in the best place possible—at home. She hopes soon to be able to take up her duties and that you all will co-operate to make the year before us the best yet in this blessed service for Him.

Hulda K. Smith.



We are never without help. We have no right to say of any good work, it is too hard for me to do; or of any sorrow, it is too hard for me to bear; or of any sinful habit, it is too hard for me to overcome.

E. Charles.

Pegu—Burman

We are having a dry time in Pegu, so far as NEWS is concerned, but if we talk about the weather its different. As I am writing this on the last day of July it is raining as though it had no intention of ever stopping. We had a let up a short time ago, and I said, "I'm going down town while it is not raining," and before I got to the road it was pouring, and before I got to the bazaar I could not see a block ahead. The river is bank full, and ready to spill over. And this morning's paper says both the railway and highway have breaches in them about twenty-five miles North of here. We are living up to our reputation. But aside from the weather I have made two over Sunday preaching trips, and the pastor and evangelist made another; theirs was longer than mine; I went by car, they went by boat. Then we made two trips to Rangoon, and the Mrs. entertained a dentist. Between the trips we sandwiched in an entertainment for the school children in the shape of a visit from Dr. Ah Ma, who examined into their physical fitness for lifes' work. She has a wonderful way with her of cajolling them into doing whatever she wants them to. There are about 225 children in school, and that's more than we had at any time last year. Mary says she expects to get here the first week in October. No one will object, no matter how soon it is. Among the other interesting events of the month we have been clearing jungle off the school compound, and have cut down four big trees that have outlived their usefulness, some of them, maybe all, were at least fifty years old. Their room was needed. If any of you need wood, drive your cart around. That seems to exhaust the catalog of events that have helped to keep up an interest in life during this month.

M. C. Parish.

Toungoo—Burman

I failed to report in the July News so I have to go back to the opening of school. It is slightly smaller than last year, but the decrease is in the lower standards. The Middle School is larger than last year with twenty-seven in 7th, thirty-four in 6th and fifty-seven in 5th. This is encouraging for the next two years in 7th, though they always drop away in the last two years somewhat, especially the girls. One teacher, who is one of our old boys and who was converted on the year he finished Seventh standard and who won a scholarship and later studied through Senior I.A., but failed to pass, has been teaching with a vernacular normal certificate for one year. This year he took the examination and passed and is now qualified to teach in all subjects. We rejoice at this for he is an enthusiastic teacher, valuable in sports as well and gives a lot of time to helping the weaker pupils. He is also the Scout Master and a real asset to the school.

An old boy who is now studying in the Senior I. A. class at Judson college has written that the training he got in Bible while in our school has never left him and that now for the past three years in Judson he has been making a more careful study of the claims of Christ and has come to the decision to accept Him and become a Christian. We rejoice in this as it is a further proof that those who attend this school do feel the impulse to yield to Christ, which, if continued into their years of maturity, will lead them to a decision to yield to Christ. The three years in college have given him additional conviction, sufficient to lead him to seek baptism.

We enjoyed the meetings of the B. C. C. and especially the addresses by Dr. McLaurin. One can easily believe that the young men studying under him are being trained in the fundamentals of the faith and led to face the problem of their personal

relationship to Christ in a way to bring power to their lives.

The work of our Telugu preacher seems to be most encouraging. Already several are asking for baptism, attendance at the meetings is increasing, inquirers come nightly to his home which is now in the Telugu quarter and greater harmony and enthusiasm is seen among the Christians. A recent meeting of Telugu women was led by some of the Telugu Christian women and about twenty-five women came. We greatly rejoice at these signs of an awakening. If only the Burmese people were more like the Telugus in being like those of Berea!

The Sunday school has about doubled over what it was last year and the Christian Endeavour Society, connected with the school, which meets at the close of the Sunday school, has also grown and has a good deal of enthusiasm. It is in these meetings that many of the children have a chance to express themselves as to their problems and we believe that from these meetings have come some of the decisions we have had. In addition to this society we have one for the Christian young people of the church and any of the young people of the school who have accepted Christ are accepted into the membership of the senior society.

Lewis B. Rogers.



*So may we send our little timid
thought
Across the void, out to God's reaching
hands,
Send our love and faith to thread the
deep—
Thought after thought until the cord
Has greated to a chain no chance
can break.
And—we are anchored to the
Infinite!*

From Edwin Markham's
Anchored to the Infinite.

Maymyo

"Christ loved the church and gave Himself for it" (Ephesians V. 25).

That statement arrests, grips, startles, and thrills us. Over one hundred times do we find the word "church" in the New Testament. Instituted by the Maker of all worlds, the worshipped of angels, for the spiritual welfare and training of His people for whom He gave Himself an atoning sacrifice, there must necessarily be something of supreme intrinsic worth in the nature and purpose of the church of Christ on earth. Whenever the apostles went they established churches. Within thirty-five years there was a chain of churches from Jerusalem to Rome. To-day there is a turning away from Christian churches, an appalling loss of esteem and confidence in their effectualness and value to the individual. Why is this? What is there lacking? The first church that was established on earth, was at Jerusalem: it was a hive of activity, and its members were filled with joy and with the Holy Ghost. Daily additions were made to it by the Lord, of men and women and young people. Within a year it had a membership of over 5,000! Its members were friends of Jesus, lovers of Jesus, servants of Jesus, brothers and sisters of a happy spiritual family. They were God-filled, God-controlled, God-centred, and ready at any time to die, if necessary, for the Lord Jesus Christ. They had separated themselves from an unbelieving world unto Christ the Son of God. They constituted a holy people, a redeemed and regenerated and changed people, to whom God and Christ and forgiveness of sin, and eternal life, and the Holy Spirit's indwelling, and heaven, were as real as was the physical world. They did not feel that they needed some other institution than that which their glorious Lord and Master had appointed for them in love and in wisdom.

We have the same Heavenly Father, the same Saviour the same Holy Spirit to dwell within us, a similar world of sin and suffering and multifarious needs in which to labour, and the unchanging satisfying transforming Gospel, together with nineteen centuries of cumulative testimony to the fact that *Christ lives and is dependable to abundantly and freely meet every spiritual need of our lives.* Oh, dear friends, we need no new Movement nor new Institution, nor new organization, but a rededication of our individual selves to Christ. It should be considered by us a distinguished privilege and great honour to be a member of Christ's church, and each church should be a replica of the churches at Jerusalem and at Ephesus, as set forth in Acts 2: 36-47 and Eph. chapters 1 and 2. The outstanding features of our Lord's earthly life, namely, faith, love, unselfishness, purity, obedience, righteousness, and soul-winning, should be conspicuous in our lives also. We have over 1,000 local churches in Burma: their influence ought to be immeasurable and continually increasing. This would be the case if CHRIST shone through each member. "Arise! shine! thy light is come and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee."

We have three Bible-women and seven Sunday-schools at Maymyo, with an aggregate of over 250 pupils. Saya Ba Oh who has been pastor of the self-supporting Burmese Church for thirty years, has resigned, as from the end of August. It is planned for him to act as half-time pastor, with an assistant pastor, for six months from September 1.

The Church members at Hsipaw, stirred by the success of the Namtu and Lashio churches, in erecting for themselves Houses of Worship, and ashamed longer to continue holding service in their thatch-covered decrepit building, have decided to *arise and build* although but few in

number. An appeal is broadcasted to the churches to each assist with a gift of from five to ten rupees from each church to enable them to put up a building to cost, say, Rs. 5,000. Contributions for this most worthy object, for God's glory, may be sent to Daw Shwe Bwint, Teacher, Hsipaw, N. S. S. All gifts will be gratefully received and acknowledged. Readers of this article, who may like to assist, please send to undersigned.

Ernest Grigg.



Does American History Repeat?

"The missionary spirit of the American Baptist churches in 1848 was at a low ebb. The first enthusiasm of the mission effort had passed away. Dr. Judson's return in 1844 had revived old memories, and to some extent increased the contributions. Yet in 1846 the income of the Missionary Union was so small, that the Board were forced to debate as to *which of their missions they would relinquish*. The Society was forty thousand dollars in debt, and the deficit was increasing yearly."

"The Vintons and the Karens,"

It is to be noted that after a revival of faith in God, and His salvation in the Son of God, the mission contributions increased. Christians have diluted the truth, and "devaluated heavenly currency." "Return unto me, and I will return unto you."

A. J. W.



An Open Secret

Thank God, it is an open secret, this secret of the victorious life! It lies in the surrender of our will and mind and life to the mind and will of Jesus Christ, as that is revealed to us by the Holy Spirit, through the word of God. Satan is a defeated foe. Our Lord Jesus Christ has met and has defeated him. Christ is the only one Who ever has. But under the guidance and under the constraint and under the power of the Spirit of God, Who is the Vice-regent of the Lord Jesus, you and I will be led on to a like victory.

J. R. S. Wilson.

Letter

Dear Friends in Burma:

I am sure you will be interested to know that we have just had a remarkably interesting and inspiring Northern Baptist Convention at Philadelphia. I will not take time to go into detail as to the "high spots" but will be content with the statement that the best speeches on the whole program were made by Dr. Dryden Phelps and Dr. Joseph Taylor, of China, and our own Rev. B. C. Case.

During the conferences we managed to find time for a Burman Luncheon at the Hotel Normandie. The following were present: J. Lee Lewis, Olive Hastings, Mildred Mosier, Mr. and Mrs. B. C. Case, P. H. Hackett, Happy Harrison, Mrs. Sisson, Mrs. Ola Hanson, Mrs. Isabel Condict and her two sons, Edward, 3rd and Clinton, Cecelia L. Johnson, Dr. A. B. Grey, Dr. Grey's brother and wife and little girl, Harriet Gibbons, Freda Peter Geis, Mr. Lewis Pratt and his wife, Elsie Root Pratt, Miss Mary Parish, L. F. Marsh, Albert Linder, a friend of the Cases', and myself. We thought of you folks off in Burma and especially with reference to your problems of adjustments and changes, in view of the curtailment of workers and money.

I want to pass on word to the people of Burma that I believe things are definitely looking up in the churches. Connecticut had a quota on the Forward Fund of \$20,000, over the period of two years and Connecticut raised \$22,000. There is a decided improvement in interest of things missionary and I believe we are still going forward.

The Hinton family are happily located in West Hartford. We shall be glad to have any of you write and when you are home, we hope you will be sure to come to see us.

Sincerely yours,

H. E. Hinton.

Right Reading for Right Thinking

In the work which I have been asked, by the General Committee of the United Society for Christian Literature, and by our Reference Committee, to take up, I feel that I must appeal to the members and friends of our Mission for real help and co-operation. When people are speaking in conferences and conventions, we often hear the importance of Christian literary work stressed; but when we find our friends actually at work in their various stations and upon their different fields, we sometimes find that Christian literature is not a factor at all, in their thinking, as they plan their work and efforts.

It seems to me that it is just as much the duty of the missionary or the indigenous leader, to guide the people on his field, in the matter of what they read, as in any other activity of their lives. We are in these days stressing the training of Christian leaders? Right in your school, in your church, are the boys and girls, the young men and women, who are to be the future leaders in the Christian life and thought of Burma, are you leaving them to the sex novel, the crime story, the trashy magazine, of which a regular flood is now pouring forth from Burmese presses? Are you seeking to guide them in their reading, to put before them the best, that will help them in their Christian life?

In publishing the "Treasure Chest" we aim to give the young people of Burma a magazine of Christian tone and influence, a magazine which will not simply be neutral or innocuous, but which will in every issue, have a definite Christian message, will help them to live the Christian life more strongly, more faithfully than before. So also in the "Woman's Friend" magazine, the aim is to provide a periodical which will help the Christian women of Burma, will help them

most specifically to meet the demands, to fulfill the responsibilities of the new day which is dawning, when women will have so much more, than in the past, of an active part in the life and thought of the nation.

Will you help to get subscribers for these two magazines, among the people on your field?

A. C. Hanna.



"Eastward"

"Eastward! The Story of Adoniram Judson" is a new book, just published by the Round Table Press in America. The author of the book is Dr. Stacy R. Warburton, the well-known professor of missions at Berkeley Baptist Divinity School. Especially noteworthy about this book are the following facts:

It is authoritative. The author has made the life of Judson, the subject of careful and thorough-going research. The author's previous experience, and work along various lines, have rendered him peculiarly fitted for such an undertaking as writing missionary biography. Dr. Warburton has been a missionary in China, editor of the Baptist Missionary Magazine, as it then was, assistant secretary of the American Baptist Foreign Mission Society, author of a book on missions, and for years now, professor of missions. He has had opportunities of a special kind, to consult documents, letters and other records, on file with our mission society.

It is interesting. The author's careful research and study are never obtrusive. The book is written in a restrained but compelling style which carries you on from page to page. The author avoids the perfervid and exaggerated in style, but on every page, there are little human touches such as you will find, I think, in no other biography of Judson.

It is timely. As the foreword to the book well says, "For fifty years

there has been no serious and complete study" of Adoniram Judson's life. A sensational novel appeared a few years ago, but it gave as a matter of fact, a rather faulty impression of Judson's life and character, and a mistaken impression of the missionary motive and the missionary life.

This book by Warburton has the advantage of perspective. Wayland's biography was published shortly after Judson's death. Many a man who appears great to his contemporaries, is not so judged by succeeding generations. But the Christian world's opinion of Judson has if anything risen during the eighty-seven years that have passed since his death. We are able, looking back, to see his wisdom and the accuracy of his judgment in various matters. Having gone down into the valley of humiliation ourselves, in our extravagant insistence upon education as a method of missionary effort, we can the more esteem his wisdom in steadfastly refusing to make indiscriminate use of education—especially of English education—as a means for evangelistic work.

A. C. Hanna.



Happy Results

Some who read about the ordination of our seven young pastors, April 25, may wonder how they are doing on their respective fields. I have not heard from all but let me quote from some of the reports that I have received:

"I have had two baptisms; at one time I baptized eight and at another time nine. Three families have just become Christians. Two of these families were so afflicted by the nats they were not able to stand up or eat. They were very sick. But as soon as we had finished cleaning out the nats they all became well at once. We all marveled. It must have been their strong fear of the nats that made them so ill."

Another writes: "I have had five baptisms and ninety-two were baptized and brought into the Church. In each place we had communion. Next Sunday I am visiting another circle fourteen miles from here. Some of our people there have asked for baptism. We will also have communion and a meeting with the Christians."

From a third one: "Since I returned home I have done a great deal of touring. We even went two days journey into the Wa States. During this time I have had two baptisms with twenty-one baptized."

Still another reports: "I have visited several villages in this large field. So far we have had only one communion service; at that time I took in nine new members by baptism."

And lastly one writes: "At present I am visiting the Christians near Bawdwin. We have had very good meetings here. Since I arrived home I have baptized seventeen."

Thus I have still two to hear from and yet these five young men have had the great pleasure of taking in 156 members by baptism during their first experience as Baptist Pastors. No wonder there is a tone of victory and joy in their reports. May the good work continue.

Gustaf A. Sword,

Kutkai Bible Training School.



The Fight for Holiness

You will notice these words "lusteth" or "fighteth," "against," "contrary." There is an atmosphere of antagonism here..... When you were unconverted there was none of this opposition that you realise now. The Devil did not bother about you when you were unconverted. You were his, you did as he wished; you certainly had nothing that he wanted to take from you. But when you were converted, God gave to you all manner of joys and blessings that the Devil will rob you of if he possibly can.

Guy H. King.

Publicity Material

The first lot of the Publicity material will be mailed early in August I expect. Not having received very many contributions, I have culled from NEWS and personal letters and made the first series an appeal for the children of Burma under the motto "Give Us a chance!"

1. The chance to live.
2. The chance to learn.
3. The chance to know God.

The Mailing list I have now in hand puts us in touch with 300 churches of the N. B. C. That should be doubled before the next lot goes out a few months later. We are sending to only one person in each church and although some of you ordered two and three hundred copies to be sent, we think for the start we had best limit it to a hundred or so until we know how many of them will take up the distribution in a serious way. With this first mailing goes a mimeographed letter to each name telling which missionary has sent in his or her name and asking him, if interested to have more copies, to let us know. We are trying not to duplicate churches, so please give name of church which is to be served when you send a name. In that way I can eliminate duplications. Each of you will receive a copy of what is sent home—more than one copy if you desire.

This is in no way to interfere or take the place of your own publicity work and personal touch through the Board's Mailing lists. You will continue to use that as before.

Some of you in large schools and institutions may from time to time have leaflets printed of a general nature concerning your work. If it is good publicity material why not plan on the printing of a few extra hundreds which you will send to the Publicity Committee for mailing with their own material? Every such folder is one more touch with mission

work brought to somebody's attention at home and other churches may as well have it as your own.

E. N. Chaney.

❖ ❖ ❖ Special Offer

By special arrangement with the parent Society in London, the Burma branch of the United Society for Christian Literature, is able to offer at a very low price, a line of beautifully illustrated Scripture booklets entitled "The Saviour of Men," descriptive of the Life of Christ. The booklets have been issued in two editions, one in Burmese and the other in Karen. The pictures in these booklets are exquisitely reproduced in colour from paintings by the famous artist, Harold Copping. These booklets are equally suited for children and for adults; for children, because the type used for the letterpress is large, the language is simple, yet interesting, and the children will be irresistibly attracted by the beautiful coloured pictures; but they are suitable for adults too, because the older people will find in these pictures so much of beauty, and so much that is interpretative of the Scripture narrative, as to hold their attention equally with the children. The booklets are for sale at the Mission Press. Price: five annas per copy; special prices on quantities.

❖ ❖ ❖

Britannica and Jig-Saws Wanted

I would like to buy a second-hand set of the Encyclopedia Britannica from anyone who might have one of the latest edition or the previous edition.

Also, if anyone would like to give away any old jig-saw puzzles for use in boys' clubs and young people's socials, I will be glad to pay the mailing charges.

Cecil Hobbs,

A. B. Burman Mission,

Henzada.

THE BURMA NEWS

DECLARATION

H. W. Smith Esq., M.A., B.Sc.,
Rangoon.

DEAR MR. SMITH,

After the Annual Meeting of the C. L. S. (United Society for Christian Literature) on Friday last I was asked by some of the Baptist friends for a copy of the Declaration of Union comprising the Religious Tract Society and the Christian Literature Society.

I shall be much obliged if you will kindly find space in the BURMA NEWS for the inclusion of this Declaration, and also an invitation to Missionary friends to apply to you for copies of the catalogue of English Books, Prize and Award publications and Tracts for distribution, free and otherwise, published by the R. T. S. branch of the Union. These lists should be specially useful to responsible Heads of Schools, Colleges and Institutions where it has become customary to award books as prizes and as reward for merit.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

SIDNEY DANT,

Eastern Representative,

United Society for Christian Literature.

DECLARATION subscribed by the two Societies:—

The Religious Tract Society, in it's 136th year, and the Christian Literature Society for India and Africa in it's 77th year, join together to form one united body for the more effectual dissemination, through the use of the printing press, of the "faith once for all delivered to the saints."

The uniting Societies have both adhered to the Protestant Evangelical doctrines of the Church of Christ, receiving and teaching the revelation of the Father in His Son, Jesus Christ, the one Mediator between God and men, Himself both God and man; the perfect obedience of His life, His atoning death, His resurrection and ascension; His promise to come again; the abiding presence of the Holy Spirit in the Church as Sanctifier, Guide and Teacher of all believers; and the inspiration and authority of Holy Scripture.

The union shall be known as the United Society for Christian Literature. By it's organisation it will make available for the Churches at home and in their missionary activities abroad, as well as for the newer Churches overseas, the means of setting forth the Christian faith in all it's variety of application to the needs and problems of mankind. These needs and problems call most urgently for help to-day, in view, on the one hand, of the increasing opportunities for the positive proclamation of the truth which God is opening to His Church in different parts of the world, and on the other hand, of the intensified opposition to the faith from rationalistic literature and from the world-wide programme of a militant, missionary atheism.

The Declaration epitomises the "Foundation Principles" of the two Societies.

THE BURMA NEWS

IMPORTANT Nominees

Conference voted that the practice of notifying missionaries who have been nominated for Conference offices be discontinued. It is expected that any one nominated for any office will stand for election and serve if elected. Any one unable to accept any Conference Office if elected, should notify the Conference Secretary at once, before Electing Ballots are prepared.

E. T. Fletcher.

It appears that the secretary's Mailing list was incomplete. If you did not receive a Nominating Ballot wire the fact, to "Fletcher-Maubin."

E. T. Fletcher.



Birth

To Helen (née Hanna) wife of George Samuel, Indian Civil Service, a son, George Jr., on July 27th, at Dufferin Hospital.



Arrived

On July 13th by S. S. *Karapura*, Miss F. Faith Hatch.

Death

Cable just received by Joe Smith in Pyinmana announces the death of his father at the age of ninety-three. He is survived by nineteen children.